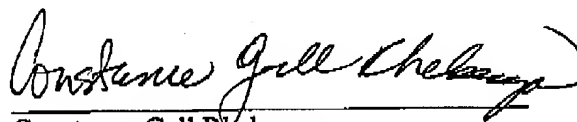


REMARKS

The above amendments are believed to address each of the Examiner's points in the December 23, 2003 office action and to place this application in condition for allowance. Applicant has cancelled certain claims to expedite allowance of this application and in view of other related pending applications. In view of the foregoing Amendment, Applicant respectfully requests the issuance of a Notice of Allowance. Should the Examiner believe that there are any outstanding issues, a telephone conference at (713) 221-3306 is respectfully solicited. Applicant appreciates the substantial efforts and time dedicated by the Examiner to this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Constance Gall Rieberg

Reg. No. 41,267

Attorney for Applicant

Date: Feb 23, 2004
BRACEWELL & PATTERSON, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 61389
Houston, Texas 77208-1389
(713) 221-3306 direct phone
(713) 222-3291 direct fax